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# House Agrees to Meet Senate on Central America Aid

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WASHINGTON, May 9 — Congress moved today to break a monthlong deadlock over emergency military aid to Central America, in advance of President Reagan's televised address.

The Democratic leaders of the House, which had rejected previous appeals, agreed to negotiate with the Republican leaders of the Senate on a package of aid for El Salvador and the Nicaraguan insurgents. For their part, the Senate Republicans agreed to strip some provisions from the bill. They said aid for El Salvador was more likely than for the Nicaraguan rebels.

The move was attributed by some Congressional leaders to the apparent victory last Sunday of José Napoleón Duarte in the presidential runoff elections in El Salvador. Mr. Duarte, considered a moderate, defeated Roberto d'Aubuisson, a rightist.

Some Congressional leaders had feared the election of Mr. d'Aubuisson, and Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., the Massachusetts Democrat who is Speaker of the House, was among those who sought to delay the aid bill until after the election. The Speaker said Mr. Duarte's election would enhance prospects for approval of Salvadoran aid.

## Chief Topic of Conversation

Congressional leaders denied that their timing was in any way prompted by the President's speech, but the address was a chief topic of conversation for those involved in the bill.

The House and Senate agreed to begin negotiations next Wednesday. Last month the Senate approved \$61.7 million in aid for El Salvador and \$21 million for the Nicaraguan rebels. In March, the House approved an aid bill with no Central American aid and then stalled Senate efforts to negotiate.

The leaders of the House said today that a scheduled vote on Thursday on a \$10.5 billion foreign aid bill would demonstrate the House view on Salvadoran aid.

The Democratic leaders appear divided on a key aspect of the bill, a Republican proposal to approve President Reagan's request for an additional \$129.4 million in military aid this year, and \$132.5 million for the fiscal year 1985, which begins Oct. 1.

The proposal would also eliminate the 55-man limit on military advisers in El Salvador and a 300-man limit on military personnel in Honduras. It will be offered by Representative William S. Broomfield of Michigan, ranking Republican on the Foreign Affairs committee.

## O'Neill Opposes Salvador Aid

Mr. O'Neill, who opposes additional Salvadoran aid, said he would not be surprised if the Republican proposal passed, in light of Mr. Duarte's election, and he expressed concern that this might endanger the entire foreign aid bill.

Representative Jim Wright, Texas Democrat, said that he might support the Republican measure and that it would not affect the overall prospects of the bill.

An alternative proposal, adopted by the Foreign Affairs Committee, would provide no additional funds this year, \$189.3 million next year, and retain the existing limitations on personnel. A third alternative to be offered would condition these funds on Presidential certification of progress in negotiations with the rebels and on human rights.

## Discrepancies in Two Bills

Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Oregon Republican and chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who has pressed for negotiations on the emergency aid package, said, "I think there is a likelihood that we will end up with something on El Salvador." He added that the negotiators were "less likely" to approve funds for Nicaraguan rebels.

Representative Jamie L. Whitten, Mississippi Democrat and chairman of the Appropriations Committee, has objected to the Senate's addition of unrelated legislation to the emergency aid bill. The House bill, which provided only \$60 million for African aid, was expanded by the Senate to a \$1.3 billion bill that included funds for domestic public works projects.

Mr. Hatfield said today that the Senate had reassessed its version and that many of the public works additions might be deleted in conference with the House. He said the Senate would try to retain some other provisions, for summer youth jobs, child nutrition and child health programs.

The Speaker, noting that Mr. Reagan had often spoken of the need for bipartisan consensus on Central America, said that such a consensus existed.

"Polls show that the American people oppose our covert role in the war to overthrow the Government of Nicaragua," he said. "This includes a majority of Republicans. By a ratio of 62 percent to 17 percent, Republicans oppose our mining of that country's harbors."

He called upon the President "to bow to the will of the American people, and the will of his own Republican party, and declare tonight that he is ending our involvement in such activities."

"Unless he does so," Mr. O'Neill said, "he will continue to worry many Americans that his policies are leading us into war."

## Helms Charges Aid to Duarte

In a related development, Senator Jesse A. Helms, North Carolina Republican, accused the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department of working behind the scenes in El Salvador on behalf of Mr. Duarte.

Senator Helms said Ambassador Thomas Pickering had presided over "a covert plan to funnel U.S. Government funds and other assistance directly into Duarte's campaign."

"This covert funding has been going on for two years. In other words, the State Department and the C.I.A. bought the election for Duarte. Mr. Pickering was merely the purchasing agent."

The Senator called Mr. Duarte a "socialist," and said that Mr. d'Aubuisson's principles were those of Mr. Helms' own party.